

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. National Phase application, which claims priority to International Application Serial No. PCT/IL00/00110, filed on February 22, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/121,239, filed on February 22, 1999, the contents of which are incorporated therein in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

The cDNA sequence of the *fht* gene is shown in Fig. 12. A carnation partial *fht* cDNA clone (1 kb) was isolated by PCR of reverse-transcribed poly (A)⁺ RNA, using specific primers according to the sequence in GenBank (X70378). This fragment was subcloned in antisense orientation (Fig. 13) between the CaMV 35S promoter and *nos* terminator in pJD330 (Broido, S., Loyter, A. & Vainstein, A. Transient expression of photosynthetic genes in ~~transfected~~ transfected albinoid petunia protoplasts and correct processing of newly synthesized chloroplast-destined polypeptides. *Physiol. Plant.* **88**, 259-266 (1993)) to create pJD-anti-*fht*. An *Xba*I fragment from pJD-anti-*fht* was then cloned into the binary vector pCGN1559 (Comai, 1990) to create pAM-anti-*fht*. The gene construct was transferred to carnation cv. Eilat via cocultivation of stem explants, as described above, with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, AGLO containing pAM-anti-*fht*.